

2.0 PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 PLANNING PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

The planning process for the Montana Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan was designed and developed to maximize participation and information exchange during the Plan's development. To initiate the process, the State of Montana, Department of Military Affairs - Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) contracted with the Resource Management Services, Inc. of San Diego, California (Prime Contractor), Land and Water Consulting, Inc. of Missoula, Montana (Sub-Contractor) and Big Sky Hazard Management, Inc. of Bozeman, Montana (Sub-Contractor) to facilitate and compose the Statewide Hazard Assessment and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM). This Team spearheaded and implemented the planning initiative in coordination with guidance from the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO).

A system for completing the necessary elements of a Standard State Mitigation Plan was created to provide an efficient way for participants to become active in the planning process and facilitate an informational exchange of the most current data and programs throughout the State.

Advisory Group

An Advisory Group was designated as the main steering committee to develop a Statewide Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan. The members of this Advisory Group were chosen based on their expert knowledge of hazards and/or their active role in mitigation activities for Montana. Section 7.1 lists the agencies represented in the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group's main objective was to guide the planning process and oversee the Statewide Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan development for consistency across hazards. This group formally met at the beginning of the planning process and reviewed items as necessary throughout the process.

Stakeholders Group

A much larger Stakeholders Group was created to include multiple organizations, including federal, tribal, state, and local governmental agencies or associations, businesses, non-profit organizations, and trade associations. All state departments were specifically invited to group meetings through invitation letters and/or e-mails. The Stakeholders Group represents a cross-section of private and public groups that have interests in mitigating hazard impacts and risks, but did not have the time available for in-depth participation. Three meetings were held with the Stakeholders group – a kickoff meeting introducing them to the process and initiating input for the hazard assessment, a meeting presenting the results of the hazard assessment and initiating input for the mitigation strategy, and a final meeting presenting and gathering comments on the entire draft Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan before adoption. These workshop style meetings featured informational presentations followed by sessions soliciting member input. Members of the Stakeholders Group are listed in Section 7.2.

Hazard Technical Groups

Members of the Stakeholders Group were invited to participate in Hazard Technical Groups for those hazards or topics that they have expert knowledge of, supplemental information on, or a general interest in. The Hazard Technical Groups provided data, history, hazard information, and mitigation ideas for specific hazards and reviewed hazard profiles and mitigation measures. These groups communicated with the contractors and each other through e-mail and small group meetings. Members for each Hazard Technical Group are listed in Section 7.3.

Alternative Participation Opportunities

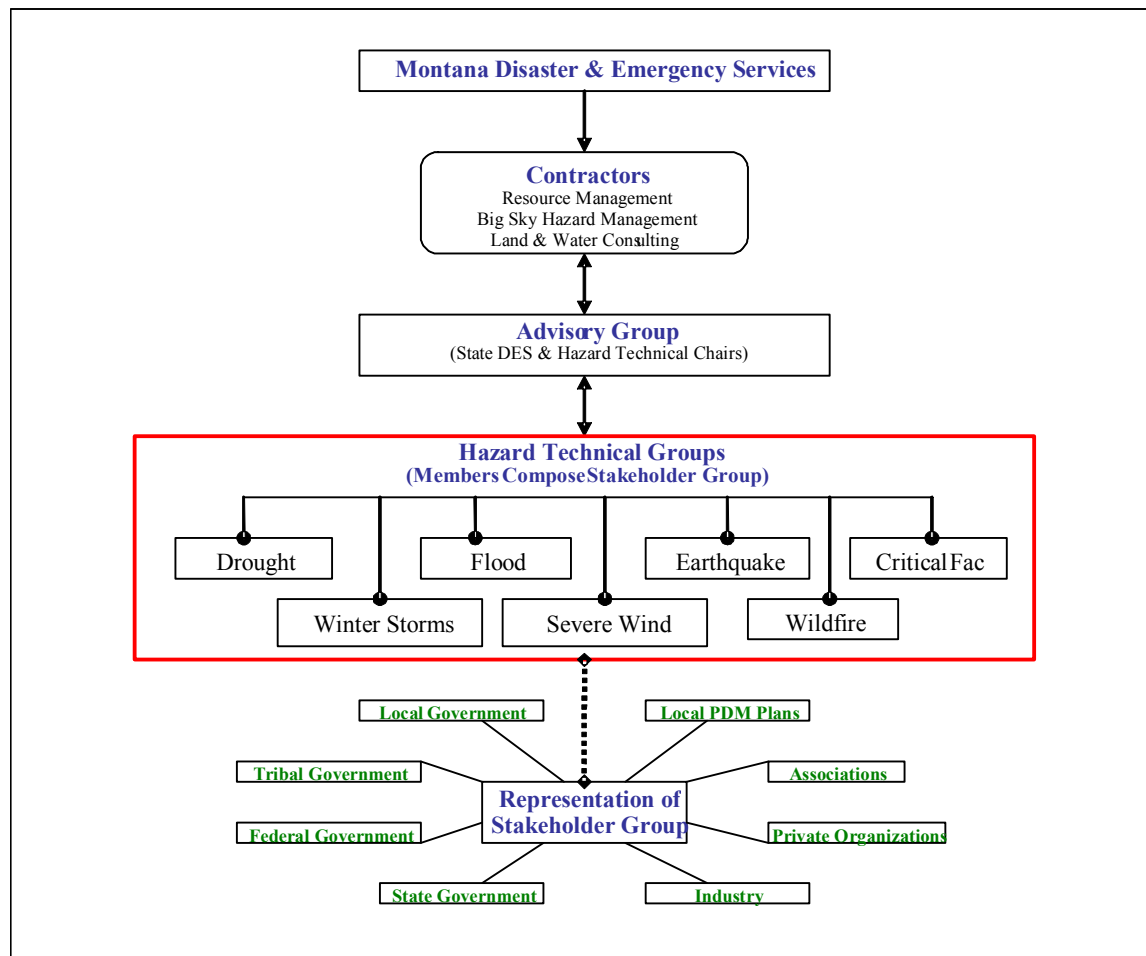
Understanding that time and travel constraints may have prohibited many entities from participating, alternative means for participation were developed. A representative from the contracting team made a brief presentation and was available throughout the 2004 Montana Governor's Emergency Management Conference. To further solicit input from Eastern Montana, an additional meeting was held in Glasgow at the National Weather Service office with local DES coordinators who also participated in Stakeholders meetings over the phone. A draft of the plan document was posted on the Montana DES website with a contact for comments prior to adoption. These opportunities allowed those who were unable to attend the Stakeholders meetings alternative ways to participate.

Public Involvement

Montana is a huge state, the third largest in the continental United States. Public involvement to the level that is required for the local PDM plans is not feasible at the state level, however, much of our planning process utilized plans and stakeholders that represent the public's interest. Integration of the local PDM plans into the statewide plan has occurred to the extent possible where statewide concepts exist, and each local plan is an annex to this plan. The local plans were developed with direct public involvement and influenced the content of this state plan. Also, many of our stakeholders represent the entire state through their position and through their studies. Others, such as the representative from the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) that represents all of the county commissioners or representatives from local DES offices, hold key positions in representing the best interests of the public they serve. Directly, the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the draft plan through its display and comment period on the state website. The adoption of this plan by the Governor shows support of the plan contents by our chief elected state official chosen to represent the state residents. Through these methods, the citizens of Montana were directly and indirectly considered and valued during the development of this plan.

Planning Process Structure

The planning structure allowed for individuals to have as much or as little involvement as they chose, thus maximizing the overall span of organizations involved. **Figure 2.2-1** depicts the participation structure. This structure was used for all aspects of review and plan development to solicit statewide input and to ensure adequate representation without overburdening individual participants. The contractors referred to this structure frequently when gathering information, developing methodologies, and drafting sections of the plan throughout the year long planning process.

Figure 2.2-1 Planning Process Organizational Structure

Planning Goals and Anticipated Outcomes

Goals and outcomes specific to the planning process were developed at the first Stakeholders meeting. Individuals presented and discussed their goals for the plan's development. The participants felt these goals and outcomes would make the hazard assessment and mitigation plan useful and ensure a successful end product for both state agencies and local mitigators. Based on the comments received in these workshops, the planning goals -- emphasizing that these are different than mitigation goals -- can be summarized as follows:

Planning Goal #1: Utilize local input to the maximum extent possible. *Local input is critical to the success, accuracy, and usefulness of the plan.*

Planning Goal #2: Create a hazard assessment and mitigation plan that are working, living documents and can be continuously updated. *The initial development of the documents is just the starting point. They need to be easily maintainable and flexible for expansion. The hazard assessment and plan documents must be concise and well written. Simplicity and usability are important.*

Planning Goal #3: Integrate local mitigation plans to avoid repetition, provide continuity, and underscore the importance of the local plans. *Local PDM plans are ultimately annexes to the state plan.*

Planning Goal #4: Encourage continuous mitigation outreach, education, and technical assistance to the local DES coordinators and elected officials throughout the planning process and beyond. *Planning should be a grassroots effort that fosters local collaboration. Utilize a website and electronic communications for plan outreach, particularly with distant participants. Emphasize the financial benefits of planning and mitigation for local governments.*

Planning Goal #5: Utilize existing programs to the extent possible to support mitigation goals. *Statewide and national programs such as the National Weather Service's Storm Ready program and the National Fire Plan are important cooperating factors for hazard mitigation in Montana.*

Planning Goal #6: Focus the plan on the major Statewide risks to people, property, infrastructure, and/or the environment. *An all-inclusive, non-specific plan would be too vague and would not allow for concentration on the major hazard areas.*

Planning Goal #7: Identify areas where insufficient data exists to fully quantify hazards and document plans to address those shortcomings. *Recognizing the problems with acquiring hazard data will demonstrate the limitations in assessing the hazards and provide possible solutions for improving the hazard assessment.*

Planning Goal #8: Use the hazard assessment as the cornerstone of the mitigation strategy. *Basing the mitigation strategy on information from the hazard assessment will promote a greater connectivity between the problem and the solution.*

Planning Goal #9: Outline the prioritization scheme that will be used to review local projects for funding. *The mitigation plan should provide specific examples of projects that will be encouraged.*

Planning Goal #10: Emphasize outside funding sources in addition to FEMA, such as the USACE and other federal, tribal, state, and local agencies. *Include projects that are related to mitigation, and look toward alternative funding sources if traditional mitigation funding sources are not applicable.*

Planning Goal #11: Foster a regional approach to mitigation, not just the jurisdictional areas. *Promote agency coordination through the planning initiatives.*

2.2 ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The mitigation-related responsibilities of state agencies and other non-state entities were identified for the planning process and upon plan completion. These responsibilities fall within the mission of that organization or department as it relates to mitigation. Although the mitigation responsibilities may be a small or large part of the organization's mission and workload, it is nonetheless important. The tables outlining the responsibilities have been broken into those departments that are part of state government and those that are not (see **Table 2.2-1** and **Table 2.2-2**).

Table 2.2-1 State Government Organizations and Responsibilities

Department or Agency	Responsibilities
Department of Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide and build safe state government facilities that are resistant to disaster ▪ Evaluate new construction of state-owned buildings with respect to hazard information ▪ Mitigate damage to the state's information technology systems
Department of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mitigate bioterrorism and disease outbreaks in agriculture
Office of the State Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the National Flood Insurance Program and other types of hazard insurance with the insurance industry
Department of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help businesses mitigate disasters ▪ Provide safe, disaster resistant housing for low-income people ▪ Promote sustainable community development ▪ Provide disaster information to tourists
Department of Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide safe, disaster resistant facilities for incarcerated populations ▪ Ensure corrections facilities can be easily evacuated during disasters
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct outreach in hazardous material spill prevention ▪ Regulate drinking water supplies ▪ Assess air quality ▪ Assist with the review of mitigation projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as applicable
Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote safe recreation by the public ▪ Assist with the review of mitigation projects under NEPA, as applicable
Office of the Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect the lives and property of Montana citizens and visitors
Commissioner of Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote safe, disaster resistant universities and colleges

Table 2.2-1 State Government Organizations and Responsibilities (continued)

Department or Agency	Responsibilities
Montana Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mitigate historic sites from disasters where possible ▪ Assist with the review of mitigation projects under NEPA, as applicable
Department of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent crime, terrorism, and natural resource damage whenever possible
Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage safe residential and commercial structures through building code enforcement ▪ Promote commercial and employer mitigation for employee safety
Montana Legislative Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create laws that will protect citizens and visitors from disasters
Montana State Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serve as a clearinghouse for GIS data on hazard and disaster information when available
Department of Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage livestock health and food safety ▪ Mitigate bioterrorism and disease outbreaks in Montana's livestock industry
Department of Military Affairs (DMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate mitigation efforts statewide ▪ Manage mitigation grants from FEMA ▪ Provide mitigation technical assistance to local governments, tribes, and state agencies ▪ Provide regular mitigation training ▪ Protect National Guard assets from disasters
Montana State Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote safe, disaster resistant workplaces
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage wildfire mitigation in urban wildland interfaces ▪ Manage the state's floodplain program and floodplain mapping ▪ Promote flood mitigation ▪ Ensure dam safety ▪ Assist with the review of mitigation projects under NEPA, as applicable
Office of Public Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote programs in school safety and disaster prevention education
Board of Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote safe, disaster resistant schools
Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent epidemics and disease related disasters when possible ▪ Promote safe, disaster resistant state hospitals ▪ Promote disaster resistance and mitigation with those providing elder services
Public Service Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote utility safety and reliability
Department of Transportation (DOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mitigate damage to the state's transportation infrastructure ▪ Evaluate hazard information when designing roads and bridges to mitigate future damages

Table 2.2-2 Non-State Government Organizations and Responsibilities

Organization	Responsibilities
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American Red Cross (ARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote disaster preparedness Support local mitigation efforts
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote disaster mitigation on tribal lands
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate rangeland and wildland fires that could threaten structures
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote disaster mitigation Provide grants for mitigation activities Review and approve state and local mitigation plans Manage the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administer the National Flood Insurance Program Coordinate the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
Montana Association of Counties (MACo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform local governments of mitigation opportunities Introduce legislation that supports local mitigation goals
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study geological hazards
Montana Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote safe, disaster resistant businesses Encourage and assist with mitigation partnerships
Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote mitigation opportunities with local DES coordinators
Montana League of Cities and Towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform local governments of mitigation opportunities Introduce legislation that supports local mitigation goals
Montana State University (MSU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe, disaster resistant campuses
National Park Service (NPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate wildfires that could threaten structures
National Weather Service (NWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support mitigation of weather-related hazards in local communities Provide warning of potential hazards when possible
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect watersheds through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) Promote mitigation from all natural hazards Promote flood mitigation through the purchase of flood easements Promote resource conservation Provide technical assistance on hazards to federal, state, local, tribal, and private organizations Provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners with the use of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for drought, fire, and erosion
University of Montana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safe, disaster resistant campuses
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote flood prevention Assist with mitigation on waterways Assist with the review of mitigation projects under NEPA and USACE permits, as applicable
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote drought mitigation Mitigate rangeland fires through land management where structures could be threatened
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect wetlands Promote safe air quality Mitigate hazardous materials contamination
US Forest Service (USFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate wildfires that could threaten structures
US Geological Survey (USGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor river levels Study seismic and other geologic hazards

2.3 INTEGRATION WITH OTHER STATE PLANS

An assessment of planning efforts at the State level was conducted by the planning contractors after researching and contacting various federal and State agencies and utility companies. This assessment was then reviewed by the Advisory Group for accuracy and completeness. A description of the initiatives, goals in common, and opportunities for the integration of mitigation measures found follows.

Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan¹ – October 2001

This former statewide hazard mitigation plan has been incorporated into and will be replaced by this Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. Despite many similar factors, this original plan did not meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Therefore, a new planning process, hazard assessment, mitigation strategy, and documentation were developed. The former plan was maintained by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Disaster and Emergency Services.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Administrative Plan² - October 2001

This administrative plan required for the HMGP post-disaster mitigation will continue to be an important guiding document for managing HMGP projects. This plan describes the process used to solicit communities for projects, select projects, and then manage the grant program to fund the projects. Attachments include sample press releases, letters, and reports and instructions for National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS) procedures. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program will be managed in a very similar fashion, and therefore, the HMGP plan will serve as an initial management guide for the PDM program. Ideally, a future opportunity will allow for the integration of the two programs and the administrative document into the Statewide PDM plan. The current HMGP administrative plan is maintained by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Disaster and Emergency Services.

Montana Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program Five Year (1997-2002) Plan³ – no date

This five year plan, now outdated, will be replaced by the new Montana Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. The earthquake hazard, like the other hazards, is addressed in both the Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. The relevant concepts and information has been incorporated into the new Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. The old plan was maintained by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

Montana Disaster and Emergency Plan⁴ – no date

This plan, essentially the Emergency Operations Plan for the State of Montana, addresses the actions the State will take during times of disaster. Mitigation is an important aspect of the operations. Broken into volumes, the new Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy replaces the previous Hazard Mitigation plan as Volume 17 of the Montana Disaster and Emergency Plan. This plan is maintained by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

¹ State of Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan, Montana Hazard Mitigation Team and Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, Adopted June 1995, Revised October 2001.

² State of Montana Hazard Mitigation Administrative Plan, Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, Adopted 1991, Revised October 2001.

³ State of Montana Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program Five Year (1997-2002) Plan, Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, no date.

⁴ Montana Disaster and Emergency Plan, Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, no date.

Montana's Homeland Security Strategic Plan⁵ – December 2003

This plan has been developed by the Montana Strategic Planning Committee for Homeland Security with the purpose to "...identify strategic direction for enhancing local, tribal, regional, and state capability and capacity to prevent and reduce Montana's vulnerability from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorism incidents." Two of the four priorities of this plan relate directly to hazard mitigation and are as follows:

- Enhance detection, prevention, and mitigation, which include intelligence capabilities.
- Identification, documentation, protection, and hardening of critical infrastructure.

The focus to "incorporate all hazard approach into WMD terrorism planning" is also similar to the goals of hazard mitigation. This strategic plan supplements the hazard assessment done for the statewide mitigation strategy through a detailed, non-public analysis of the terrorist threats to Montana. This strategic plan will continue to be revised by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services through the Homeland Security Task Force and remain an important piece of the statewide mitigation strategy. Mitigation was considered in the development of this plan and will continue to be a consideration in future updates. The Montana Homeland Security Strategic Plan is maintained by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

Montana Individual & Family Grant Program Administrative Plan⁶ – August 2000

This administrative plan addresses the procedures used to provide Individual and Family Grant assistance to customers. This program provides financial assistance for housing, personal property, transportation, medical and funeral expenses, and other personal necessities following a Presidential disaster declaration. As it relates to mitigation, this plan addresses the flood insurance purchase requirements, rebuilding to current building code standards, and fuels reduction activities for individuals during the recovery from a disaster. The program, by design, encourages mitigation following an event and will continue to do so. Montana Disaster and Emergency Services maintains the Individual & Family Grant Program Administrative Plan.

Montana Public Assistance Administrative Plan⁷ – July 2003

This administrative plan focuses on the recovery of public assets and expenses following a disaster. The Public Assistance program provides assistance with repairing damaged public buildings, roads, bridges, water control facilities, utility systems, parks, and other publicly owned entities. Section 406 of the Stafford Act allows for the funding of mitigation to damaged facilities and infrastructure to prevent similar losses in the future. Therefore, following a disaster, mitigation activities to be conducted as part of the facility or infrastructure repair are guided by this administrative plan. The Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy will be incorporated into the Public Assistance Administrative Plan where applicable. This plan is maintained by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

⁵ Montana's Homeland Security Strategic Plan, Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services, December 17, 2003.

⁶ State of Montana Individual and Family Grant Program Administrative Plan, Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, August 2000.

⁷ State of Montana Public Assistance Administrative Plan, Montana Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services Division, July 2003.

Long Range Building Program⁸

The Long Range Building Program (LRBP) is Montana's program for capital projects of State owned facilities. The six year schedule of capital expenditures lists needed projects and estimated costs. This program, established by the legislature in 1965, is the financial mechanism for constructing and providing significant maintenance to state buildings. It is the "single, comprehensive and prioritized plan to allocate state resources."

Projects are submitted by state agencies during even numbered years for consideration. Each agency prioritizes its own projects based on their capital improvement goals prior to submission. The proposed projects are then reviewed by the Department of Administration, Architecture and Engineering Division and prioritized statewide. This list of prioritized projects is then submitted to the Governor for inclusion in the Governor's Budget presented to the state legislature. Once approved by the legislature, the projects can be initiated.

This program is critically important to the mitigation of hazards on state owned facilities, including the universities. All capital improvements over \$150,000, including those funded federally or otherwise, are submitted through this program. The factors considered during the prioritization process include the project justification, program impact, cost, relationship to any overall long range strategic and site plans, and other pertinent factors. The project's ability to receive approval from the legislature and how well it balances the agency's needs are additional important factors.

Hazard mitigation is not specifically considered under the current system, however, many factors related to disaster prevention are. For example, agencies must give reasons as to how priorities were given to their projects and be based on questions such as:

- Does the project improve conditions that threaten life or property or involve improvements to comply with State or Federal regulations?
- Does the project correct a problem that if not corrected would cause further deterioration of an existing structure?

Other aspects of hazard mitigation are considered during the evaluations such as if the structure is or will be in the floodplain and requiring new buildings to meet building code standards. Special consideration for life, safety, and hazard mitigation is given when identified by the submitting agency. In addition, evaluators from the Architecture and Engineering Division are educated on hazards on a regular basis. For example, a leading earthquake expert in Montana recently gave a talk on building failures from earthquakes. Despite the opportunities for mitigation, ultimately, the program is limited financially and mitigation projects must compete with other statewide priorities. This program is an important factor in developing mitigation measures for state facilities.

Montana Department of Transportation⁹

Although not specifically detailed in a plan, the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) has hazard mitigation integrated into the planning, design, and engineering of its road, bridge, and facility projects. Hazards, such as flooding, avalanche, landslide, and earthquake, are considered by designers and engineers when developing construction projects. Hazard information is often relayed to the designers and engineers by employees in the field that manage the roadway infrastructure on a day to day basis. Hazards are typically mitigated during major road repairs, and when possible, are prevented through minor repair projects and regular maintenance. Montana DOT has a responsibility to prevent damages from disasters, natural or manmade, to the highway infrastructure and the environment. In addition to the road infrastructure, hazards are

⁸ <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/aed/DesignConstruction/LongRangeBuildingProgram/LongRangeBuildingProgram.asp> and Interview of Joe Triem, Montana Department of Administration, June 2004.

⁹ From Interview with Jim Hyatt, Montana Department of Transportation, June 2004.

considered during facility design as well. Snow loads, in addition to the other hazards are considered to protect those facilities, especially since DOT facilities are often critical for response operations during a disaster. DOT will continue to evaluate hazard mitigation opportunities on an ongoing basis and copies of the hazard assessment will be distributed to those designers and engineers developing projects for their additional consideration.

Montana Floodplain Management Strategic Plan

A strategic plan for mapping and coordinating the management of the floodplains in Montana under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Map Modernization Program is currently in development by the State Floodplain Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Although not completed yet, this strategic plan will guide the important mitigation task of updating floodplain mapping and information. This document will serve as a supplement to the Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy.

Montana Ground Water Plan¹⁰ – February 1999

This statewide plan, initiated in 1992 as required by Montana law, addresses ground water issues and "...must set out a progressive program for the conservation, development, and utilization of the state's water resources..." (MCA 85-1-203). Protection, education, and remediation are the three major subsections of the plan. This plan is important to mitigation as it relates to flooding, drought, hazardous materials spills, and public health. The primary focus of the plan is on ground water issues such as supply and contamination and not those specifically related to disaster mitigation. Certainly, the protection of drinking water and water resources are important issues for public health. Opportunities to specifically discuss mitigation are limited in this plan, but during the next revision, the issue of ground water as it relates to flooding and drought disaster prevention should be considered by the state's Ground Water Work Group. For legislation related to this plan see Title 85, Chapter 1, Part 2 MCA. This plan is maintained by the Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation.

Montana Drought Response Plan¹¹ - 1995

This plan was written to enable the Montana Drought Advisory Committee "...to take measures appropriate for the mitigation of drought impacts to the people and natural resources of Montana." This response plan serves as a guide for assessing the impacts of drought and making recommendations for actions that mitigate its effects on the population, economy, and environment. This plan also describes the different agency responsibilities as they relate to drought. Although drought mitigation is mentioned numerous times in this plan, the actions are in response to existing or forecast drought conditions. Future revisions of this plan will consider long term measures that could help significantly reduce the chance of a disaster due to drought. This plan is maintained by the Montana Drought Advisory Committee, a multi-agency committee required by state law, Section 2-15-3308 MCA.

¹⁰ Montana Ground Water Plan, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, February 1999, http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/gw_plan.htm.

¹¹ The Montana Drought Response Plan, Montana Drought Advisory Committee, 1995.

Montana Wildfire Event Action Plan for the Mitigation of Public Health Impacts Caused by Smoke from Wildfire Events¹² – July 2001

This plan focuses on the monitoring and notification actions to be taken by the state for air quality during wildfires. The issue of public information and suggested actions such as staying indoors, etc. is addressed. This course of action is in line with the objectives of the statewide mitigation strategy. Additional integration of mitigation measures is not required. This plan is maintained by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Montana Framework for Economic Development¹³ – January 2002

This framework, developed by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, is to "guide the state's economic development efforts to create a stronger, more diversified economy in Montana." This document primarily focuses on growth of Montana's economy. The plan itself states, "The goals and strategies set forth in this document were developed with one comprehensive end result in mind: to support, retain, expand and attract sustainable and environmentally responsible economic activity that makes Montana a better place to live and work." Although the document doesn't specifically mention the need to create an economy that is resistant to disasters one goal and strategy is related.

- **Goal:** Promote sustainable economic growth that balances the economic needs of Montanans with maintaining a healthy and attractive environment.
- **Strategy:** Maintain safety and security of Montana residents.

Suggestions will be made to expand upon the sustainability through disaster resistance for the next revision. The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity maintains this plan.

Local Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plans

The local PDM plans, a vital piece of the Statewide plan, have been reviewed and incorporated into the Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategy where applicable. Their importance, however, goes beyond just incorporation into the State plan, and each of the local plans, once approved, has been designated an annex to the State PDM plan. These plans are maintained by the local jurisdictions and must be reviewed and resubmitted for approval at least every five years.

¹² Montana Wildfire Event Action Plan for the Mitigation of Public Health Impacts Caused by Smoke from Wildfire Events, Montana Department of Environmental Quality - Permitting and Compliance Division -Air Resources Management Bureau - Air Quality Policy and Planning Section, July 2001.

¹³ A Framework for Economic Development, Montana Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, January 9, 2002.